Maharashtra being provided Central Grants under the Grants-in-Aid scheme for encouraging afforestation and wasteland development in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the results achieved by these Mandals during the same period;

(c) whether Government propose to increase Grants in 1996-97 to those Mandals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.): (a) No Mahila Mandal or Yuva Mandal has been provided any assistance under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme in the State of Maharashtra for encouraging afforestation and wasteland development during the last three years.

(b) to (d) In view of the (a) above, (b), (c) and (d) of the question do not arise.

Revision of Population Limit for Accelarated Urban Water Supply Programme

*579. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government had sent a proposal on the 7th December, 1995 for increasing the population limit of a town from the existing 20,000 to 50,000 for the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) whether the State Government has also desired to increase the per capita per day quota of water (1. p.c.d.) from 70 litres to 100 litres;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the letter received from the Maharashtra Government, suggestions had been made fro enlarging the scope of the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) to accommodate town having population upto 50,000 and increasing the present norm of providing drinking water @ 70 litres per capita per day (1 pcd) to 100 lpcd.

(d) In reply to the letter, the Central Government has clarified that the present norm of 70 lpcd norm is considered adequate for towns having population upto 1,00,000 as these towns do not generally have large industrial and institutional requirements of water.

As regards the question of extending the scope of the scheme to towns having upto 50,000 population, it was replied that the Working Group on Urban Water Supply & Sanitation Sector for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997—2002) constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended that the population of the towns to be considered under the AUWSP may be increased form 20,000 to 1,00,000. It was also intimated that the Chief Minister's conferene held in New Delhi on 4-5 July, 1996 had also recommended that the coverage of the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme may be extended to the towns having population upto 1,00,000.

Closure of Units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

*580. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the units—I & II of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station which were closed in 1994, are still in-operative;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for their closure;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in making them operational; and